



Empowering Indian Country to Energize Future Generations

The on-the-ground START Program is part of a broader DOE Office of Indian Energy effort to make reliable, accurate technical information and skills-based training available to tribal communities throughout the United States.

Ultimately, these efforts will serve to further the Administration and DOE's shared commitment to provide Native American and Alaska Native communities with the tools and resources they need to enhance their energy security and build a sustainable, clean energy future.

Through the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DOE, through the Office of Indian Energy, is authorized to fund and implement a variety of programmatic activities that assist Tribes and Alaska Native villages and corporations with energy development, capacity building, energy infrastructure, energy cost reduction, and electrification of Indian lands and homes.

Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance

What Is START?

The Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program is part of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) effort to assist in the development of tribal renewable energy projects. Through START, Tribes in the 48 contiguous states and Alaska can apply for and be selected to receive technical assistance from DOE and national laboratory experts to move projects closer to implementation.

The START Program seeks to spur clean energy project development by providing Tribes with tools and resources needed to foster energy self-sufficiency, sustainability, and economic competitiveness. START assists with project development and financing and helps tribal communities strategically plan their energy future.

Where Is START?

START-supported projects and communities were selected through a competitive application process. Between January 30 and March 15, 2013, 42 Indian Tribes in the 48 contiguous states and Alaska submitted applications to receive on-the-ground technical support through START. Since its launch in 2012, the START Program has helped 11 Native American and Alaska Native communities pursue the development and financing of local clean, renewable energy projects. View a map of the projects at energy.gov/indianenergy/start-projects.

START Program: Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance

Through the START Program for Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance, a team of DOE and national laboratory experts will work directly with tribal communities to evaluate project financial and technical feasibility, provide ongoing training, and help implement a variety of clean energy projects, including energy storage infrastructure, renewable energy deployment, and energy efficiency measures.



The following Tribes applied for and were selected to receive START technical assistance from June through December 2013.

- **Chugachmiut Regional Corporation (Port Graham, Alaska)** will receive technical reviews of existing feasibility studies and proposals on project design and cost, land use, fuel source agreements, and permitting for an energy-efficient biomass plant that will use local wood to generate power for community buildings in the Native Village of Port Graham.
- **Ho-Chunk Nation (Black River Falls, Wisconsin)** will receive technical assistance with project-related tasks such as analyzing project plans, reviewing technology and potential off-take agreements, examining preliminary permitting plans, and evaluating financing options for a 1- to 2-megawatt (MW) biomass waste-to-energy plant that could potentially use municipal solid waste, agriculture waste, or other biomass resources to offset tribal facility energy costs.
- **Pinoleville Pomo Nation (Ukiah, California)** will receive a technical review of the engineering and economic analyses from a previous feasibility study as well as help with exploring financing options for a 3-MW solar utility project that will generate an estimated 5,000 megawatt-hours of electricity to power the Tribe's administration buildings and a 24-acre tribal subdivision.
- **San Carlos Apache Tribe (San Carlos, Arizona)** will receive technical analysis for evaluating long-term ownership options, partnership arrangements, and financing structures to help move a 1-MW solar photovoltaic (PV) array to be installed on tribal land leased to the tribal casino into the implementation phase.
- **Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Ignacio, Colorado)** will receive technical analysis for addressing transmission and interconnection challenges as well

as help identifying potential markets for energy sales for a solar PV project that will power tribal facilities and residences.

More Information

Learn more about the START projects at energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/start-program.



Five projects were selected to receive START renewable energy project development assistance in 2013 to support the development of next-generation tribal energy projects. *Illustration by NREL.*

"The START Program helps Native American and Alaska Native communities enhance their energy security and create job opportunities in the clean energy economy. Building upon the achievements and lessons learned from the program's first round, our new technical assistance awards for clean energy projects will help more tribal communities across the country deploy sustainable energy resources and increase local generation capacity."

*—Director Tracey A. LeBeau
DOE Office of Indian Energy*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Indian Energy

Front page photo from iStock 2101722

energy.gov/indianenergy
indianenergy@hq.doe.gov

July 2013 · DOE/IE-0024

Printed with a renewable-source ink on paper containing at least 50% wastepaper, including 10% post consumer waste.